The People's Korea

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Beijing, Moscow Support Pyongyang-Proposed 3-Way Talks

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Both China and the Soviet Union have endorsed the idea of holding a three-way talks for reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said on Jan. 11 in Washington that China would actively support negotiations between the DPRK, the United States and the south Korean authorities.

Interviewed on Cable News Network (CNN), Zhao said if tripartite talks could get started "it would be beneficial to the stabilization of the situation on the Korean Peninsula as well as to the peaceful reunification of the north and south."

He added: "We would give active support to this tripartite negotiations."

He also said that China had not been asked to take part in the negotiations and had not considered it.

The Soviet Union, in its official newspapers, supported the Pyongyang-proposed three-way talks.

Here is a round-up of repercussions of Pyongyang's epoch-making proposal:

China

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry in his reply to questions of correspondents on January 11 said that China supports the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for holding tripartite talks between the DPRK, the United States and the south Korean authorities, according to a Xinhua report.

The spokesman said China held that the proposed tripartite talks would be conducive to easing tension on the Korean Peninsula and promoting the peaceful reunification of Korea, and stressed that China adopted a positive attitude of support toward the proposed tripartite talks.

"People's Daily" January 12 introduced the reply of the spokesman under the title "Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Replies to Questions of Correspondents about Korea's Proposal for Tripartite Talks Conducive to Promoting the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, Peaceful Reunification of Korea, China Supports It."

On January 12 *"Wen Huei Bao"* and *"Liberation Daily"* reported the gist of the information under the respective titles "Korea Proposes Tripartite Talks on Peaceful Reunification of North and South" and "Korea Proposes Tripartite Talks for a New Phase of Peaceful Reunification."

These papers also reported the statement of the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry fully supporting the DPRK proposal for the tripartite talks.

"People's Daily" January 12 reported the information under the title "Korea Proposes Tripartite Talks to Open a New Phase for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea." It said:

Referring to the problem of tripartite talks, the information says:

Without direct talks with the United States for solving problems, it is impossible to eliminate the tension in Korea and open a peaceful phase for Korea's reunification.

The problem of signing a Korea-U.S. peace agreement and withdrawing the U.S. troops from south Korea should be discussed, first of all, at the trilateral talks.

The joint meeting, the information says, proposed the adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south of Korea at the tripartite talks and held that the two sides should not resort to arms or attack each other, should drastically reduce their armies and armament and eliminate the state of military confrontation.

The information says that after favourable preconditions are created for an independent and peaceful reunification with the signing of a peace agreement between the north side and the United States and adoption of a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south, the north and the south would enter into a dialogue on the reunification issue. This dialogue should proceed from the principles of independence, peace and great national unity in accordance with the July 4 North-South Joint Statement, it adds.

The information says that the most rational plan to realize national reunification is to bring the north and the south into a confedral state based on regional autonomy and an all-nation conference should be convened for the birth of this confederal state.

The Chinese *"Liberation Army Daily," "Guangming Daily," "Beijing Daily"* and *"Workers' Daily"* carried the gist of the information on the joint meeting all at once on January 12.

The Xinhua News Agency on January 11 reported a brief summary of the information first and then its detailed summary and Radio Beijing aired it on January 11 and 12.

"People's Daily" on January 13 carried a commentator's article titled "Important Effort for Accelerating Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea".

It says:

A joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme

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Editorial:

Epoch-Making Talks Offer

From the outset of the New Year 1984 the Korean Peninsula draws world-wide attention. Pyongyang's talks offer is an epochmaking step aimed at seeking ways for peace of Korea and its peaceful reunification and at reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula which has been in an explosive situation.

The latest overture for a three-way meeting fully reflects the desire of the 50 million Korean people and is winning strong support from within and without the country because of its practicability and justness.

Main Points of Pyongyang's Proposal

A joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held on January 10 in Pyongyang offered to hold talks with the United States and south Korea on reducing tensions in Korea and reunifying the Korean Peninsula.

The joint meeting said that it would let the south Korean authorities participate "on an equal footing" in the proposed talks between the DPRK and the United States for a negotiated settlement of Korea's reunification.

The following problems, Pyongyang urges, should be discussed at the three-way talks:

(1) Problems of signing a peace agreement between Pyongyang and Washington and of withdrawing U.S. forces from south Korea together with all their weapons beginning with nuclear weapons;

(2) Problems of putting an end to a north-south confrontation by adopting a non-aggression declaration between north and south Korea and by reducing the armed forces of each side;

(3) Other problems Washington and Seoul want to propose to discuss for the purpose of reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The DPRK calls on the United States and south Korea to hold such talks as early as possible in Panmunjom or any other place regarded convenient to all parties.

Washington and Seoul Should Agree to Pyongyang's Offer

The DPRK proposal for tripartite talks is causing repercussion all over the world as it is a step to help substantially reduce tensions in that part of Asia.

The root cause of mounting tensions on the Korean Peninsula lies in U.S. military presence in south Korea.

The Unites States, in violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement, continues to station its troops in south Korea, deploying some 1,000 nuclear weapons there.

The Americans and south Koreans have staged "Team Spirit" joint military exercises since 1976, and it is reported that this year's Team Spirit, which will involve over 200,000 soldiers, will be far larger than last year's billed as the largest ever in history.

Ceaseless military exercises by the Americans and south Koreans in addition to frequent violations of Korean airspace by SR-71s worsen the already aggravated situation.

The Americans place the 700,000-strong south Korean armed forces completely under their control and enjoy the prerogatives of command of the "ROK" army.

Under Reagan's Asian strategy, the three-way military alliance of the United States, Japan and south Korea has been actively promoted and a joint study to prepare for a war in Korea has been under way. There is no doubt that the Japanese Self-Defence Forces will participate in a possible conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

The present situation in Korea is strained so extremely that an accidental trifling incident might trigger a war any minute.

The joint meeting, giving an in-depth analysis of the strained situation on the Korean Peninsula, set forth a proposal to hold talks with the Americans and south Koreans as an effective step to prevent a possible nuclear war in Korea and create a favourable atmosphere for the peaceful reunification of the divided peninsula.

We urge Washington to affirmatively respond to Pyongyang's talks offer and sit at table to discuss such problems as these relations to a peace agreement and as withdrawing its troops and all the lethal weapons, including nuclear weapons from south Korea.

The Seoul authorities who are also responsible for the tensions created in Korea should participate in the talks.

The proposal is intended to clear away dark clouds hanging over the future of our nation and to ensure a durable peace in Korea and national integration.

It also reflects a flexible stance on the part of Pyongyang of discussing the future, not the past.

If the south Korean authorities truly don't want a tragic war between the same countrymen, they should accept the nation salvation proposal.

At present, the Seoul authorities, calling Pyongyang's latest overture "mere rhetoric" or "disguised peace offensive," stick to their favorite "north-south summit conference."

They also talk about separate U.N. membership of north and south Korea, which is obviously designed to perpetuate the division of the country.

They should not act in such a way if they are interested in the peace of Korea and its reunification.

(Continued on page 8)

Kim Yong Sam Calls for Unity Of Democratic Forces, Constitutional Changes

Kim Yong Sam, former head of the now-defunct New Democratic Party of south Korea, in his New Year message to the south Korean people on January 13 urged all the democratic forces to unite for a systematic struggle for democracy.

Branding the present south Korean "regime" as a "military dictatorship," he declared 1984 as "the year for national reconciliation and victory of democracy."

He read the statement in a news conference at his home. He demanded that Chon Du Hwan fascist clique lift the "blacklist" of now more than 300 people banned from political activity and release all the illegally arrested patriotic personages.

Kim Yong Sam urged the "government" to allow Kim Dae Jung, now in exile in the United States after being expelled there, to return to south Korea and guarantee his free political activity.

He also demanded revision to the "constitution" to clear the way for a direct "presidential election" instead of an "indirect presidential election" which guarantees long-term office of Chon Du Hwan.

Opposition Party Urges Direct Presidency Vote

Meanwhile, south Korea's major "political opposition party" on Jan. 21 called for "constitutional changes" that would enable a president to be elected by direct popular vote instead of by an electoral college.

Yu Chi Song, president of the "Democratic Korea Party", also demanded that the "government" lift a political blacklist "totally and immediately in the interests of national reconciliation and social stability."

He was referring to a 1980 special decree under which more than 300 former politicians are still barred from politics. Notable among them are dissident leader Kim Dae Jung, now in the United States, former NDP leader Kim Yong Sam and former "prime minister" Kim Jong Pil.

Yu made the remarks during his New Year press conference at party headquarters near the "national assembly" compound.

The 58-year-old four-term "lawmaker" said the "president" must seek a mandate directly from the people and therefore it is "natural logically and realistically that the people should directly elect their president.

The present "constitution", written by strongman Chon Du Hwan in October 1980, calls for presidential election by a rubber-stamp electoral college made up of Chon's supporters.

Poems:

For Occasion of New Year's Day Dedicated to President Kim Il Sung

On the receiving of New Year's day, a letter was sent to The People's Korea from Mr. George Londides, a poet of Cyprus. It enclosed the poems dedicated to President Kim Il Sung and to Mr. Kim Jong Il respectively. Here are poems dedicated to President Kim Il Sung and Mr. Kim Jong Il :

Sun of the knowledge of light
And Bard of Peace
of the world wide joy
Adorer of the child's smile

All hope of the slave wherever he lives
who is warmed with candles of light
from the immortal wine
of the JUCHE IDEA

What of lightnings
of the Great of earth
advanced with arms to close
the route of your own light

You stood like a new Prometheus
to shout like Goethe LIGHT,
MORE LIGHT, TO THE PEOPLE

Standard of freedom
astride on your horse
you passed in line your warriors
from the new way of the enemy
YOU FIRST

And your enslaved People
Had difficulty in beleiving their eyes
they were laughing and wrapping
at the Same time
Waiting the ringing of the bells
of deliverance

The enemies of your country
People were falling one after another
Like paper castles
in your heroic Passing

Their only gain
delapitated towns and villages
among them children flesh
and non fighting old People

What remained was the echo
of the mother's crying
who was embracing her dead child
and the old parent dead

The Sun vanished
From shame
Writing shame to you
Fascists and Sadists

The ice disolved,
the fog was despersed
A BRIGHT SUN
like luminious lighthouse
of the JUCHE IDEA illumines
the slures of the whole world
For their desire Freedom.

For Occasion of New Year's Day Dedicated to Mr. Kim Jong Il

Quickly and impatiently
You are climbing the rough hill
of the muses, and if I say
that I will see you on the top
I shall not be mistaken
The poet

You have seen the light of life
in the smoke of battle
of the inconquerable stronghold
the forest of Mount Paecktou
the symbol of freedom
blooded with red blood
of the freedom army
of the warrious of the Glorious
General KIM IL SUNG –
Your fate was written
with the noise of the Guns.
To continue the work of HIM
until the final justification
the peaceful reunification
of your sacred fatherland –
To widen
To enrich
the immortal philosophic
masterpiece of the JUCHE IDEA. –
A heavy inheritance
but your hands are steady
and worthy,
– You will climb on the top
I make no mistake.
The times are difficult
the enemies are waiting before the Gates,
But when the fatherland will call –
The brave warriors
of the Great Leader armies
will put up their heroic breasts
TOGETHER the braves daughters of Korea –
A proud mother
will weave a banner
PATIENCE DON'T BE AFRAID.
Mount Paecktou
will sing above
strike as you must
As it is fitting
with the merciless whip –
the killer of the peoples sellers –
Daring is sister of honour
Helping winds
blow for my fatherland.

Development of Agriculture in Korea (5)

(Continued from the No. 1,171 issue of The People's Korea)

Irrigation Is Decisive Guarantee for Increasing Food and Agricultural Production

1. Irrigation Is Priority Task Of Rural Technical Revolution

In view of the importance of exploitation and utilization of water resources in agricultural production and development of the national economy, irrigation was set as the task of top priority for the rural technical revolution and great emphasis was put on it, with the result that in our country the historic task of irrigation was accomplished splendidly long ago.

The need for giving priority to irrigation derives, first of all, from the fact that unlike industry, agriculture is largely subject to the influence of the natural and climatic conditions. Without water, it is impossible to grow crops, living organisms, and ensure production. Therefore, water is literally life-giving in agriculture.

The need for giving priority to irrigation is more keenly felt in view of the peculiarities of the conditions for agricultural production in our country where rice cultivation holds a big proportion and we have dry weather in spring and heavy rain in summer.

President Kim Il Sung, with a view to materializing his far-reaching plan for remaking the nature of the country, proposed the Potong River improvement work and personally came out to the construction site to take up the first spade for irrigation works already in May 1946, immediately after liberation. Since then our people have waged an energetic struggle for nature-remodelling, afire with an unquenchable revolutionary enthusiasm, building up river embankments, constructing reservoirs everywhere in the country and planting trees on mountains.

Following the successful completion of agricultural cooperativization, the President convened the Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in September 1958 to arouse the whole Party and entire people to the one million *chongbo* irrigation works.

In particular, he published the immortal classic *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question In Our Country* in which he threw light upon the orientation and ways of the rural technical revolution, and wisely organized and led the irrigation works to be undertaken on an ever larger scale and on the modern basis in keeping with the active promotion of the industrialization of the country. As a result, the historic task of irrigation with watering and drainage systems was completed with credit in our country already during the Seven-Year Plan.

2. Establishment of Irrigation System

What is most important in irrigation is to establish an irrigation system in paddy and dry fields. Only when this is done is it possible to water crops properly and in good time and prevent drought damage.

Before liberation, however, our country had poor irrigation systems. Then the area under irrigation was only 100,000 *chongbo*, and most paddy fields were poorly irrigated. Peasants depended on rain for farming and a great many people died from hunger due to drought.

After liberation, therefore, the establishment of a good irrigation system and solution of water problem were the most urgent demand. Thus, we concentrated great efforts on irrigation works and, with the realization of cooperativization, stepped up these works in a movement involving the whole nation and entire people.

With main emphasis on the irrigation of paddy fields, we introduced dry field irrigation and extensively established an irrigation system in the plain and all other areas. This was because only when all paddy and dry fields were watered well enough could the food and agricultural production be rapidly increased in all areas of the country.

To establish irrigation system is a far-sighted worthwhile work for the state, society and people. Besides, it is a gigantic nature-remaking work. Accordingly, we carried out the grand nature-remaking project of setting up irrigation systems through a mass movement of the entire people with the powerful assistance from the state. Large and small irrigation works were dynamically pushed forward everywhere in the country by bringing into play the strength and wisdom of the entire people, with the result that already long ago a developed irrigation system was set up firmly in our country.

Today there are more than 1,500 reservoirs with a pondage of 298,000 *chongmi*. Among them are many big artificial lakes which were made by damming up ravines including Lake Yonpung and Lake Taesong, each with a pondage of 10,000 – 40,000 *chongmi*.

In our country there is a developed, ramified irrigation system based on water pumping, in addition to the irrigation system by reservoirs.

In different places of our country there are over 23,700 pumping stations, most of which are power-driven. Pumps are used either to draw up water from rivers and low channels to water paddy and dry fields or to lift the waste water of drainage ditches again for irrigation. Pumps are also used to fill big reservoirs or to water uplands several hundred metres high through up to five stages of pumping stations.

The total length of waterways stretching from reservoirs and pumping stations to the paddy and dry fields across mountains and through funnels exceeds 40,000 km.

In addition, more than 94,700 wells and over 14,400 pools have been dug and 15,700 pipes driven in through an energetic struggle for using underground water in our country.

A modern water sprinkling system has been widely introduced in all vegetable gardens around cities and double-cropping fields. Our country now has 1.2 million *chongbo* of irrigated land, which accounts for 75 per cent of the total area under cultivation, 1.6 million *chongbo*. Thus nearly all fields, except those on steep slopes in the mountain areas, are now under an excellent irrigation system.

(Continued on page 3)

By Katamura Eiju

— The Democratic People's Republic of Korea —

Juche Society, a Healthy Society Where All People Make Efforts (8)

All Doctors Make Door-to-Door Visits

(Continued from the No. 1,171 issue of The People's Korea)

In all the policy of the DPRK health takes precedence of all others. So, health workers can talk with local residents as specialists in health and medical service on how to live in good health and happily. How happy the health workers are who have a country and a society to be developed and can encourage inhabitants to participate in it! What a proud occupation theirs is!

On this point, President Kim Il Sung made a speech at a national meeting of the workers in the field of health medical service on June 7, 1961, as follows;

"... How proud the occupation of health workers is! And how important their duty is!... The most important task for them is always to serve for the health of the people."

The "doctor registration system" of the DPRK, namely the "section doctor system," effectively combines "primary care work" – which is more excellent than that in advanced countries with "health work to prevent diseases." The doctors and other health workers there do not wait for patients to come, sitting in front of the desks in hospitals and clinics. They call on residents themselves more actively, advice people lest they fall ill, and serve people faithfully. They were thoughtful doctors and health workers with a spirit of service.

DPRK's Achievements in Health – Youth for 60-Year-Olds And 60th Birthday for 90-Year-Olds

In the case of the Ansan polyclinic, 36 doctors have more than 18,500 inhabitants under their charge. So, a doctor takes charge of 514 residents.

The DPRK has a population of 17.4 million and the number of doctors (including dentists) is 40,500 (compared with 1,009 doctors in 1946). So, the number of doctors per 10,000 of the population is 23.3 and the population per doctor and 429. (Both figures are for 1974. From a report by Deputy Rim Chun Chu at the Fourth Congress of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly.)

Japan has a population of 117 million, and doctors number 148,815 and dentists 51,597. They total 200,412. The number of doctors per 10,000 of the population (including dentists) is 17.1. (That for medical doctors is 12.7 and for dentists 4.4.) The population per doctor is 786 and per dentist 2,268. (The data is for 1980. Source; "Trends in People's Hygiene," 1982.)

South Korea has a population numbers of 34.67 million (in 1975). Doctors number 18,405 and dentists 2,823. The number of doctors per 10,000 of the population (including dentists) is 6.1. (That for doctors is 5.3 and for dentists 0.8.) The population per doctor is 1,884 and that per dentist 12,281. (The number of doctors is for 1977. Source; World Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations, 1979/'80). If we compare the number of doctors including dentists in the DPRK with that in south Korea, the number of people per doctor is 429 in the DPRK, but it is 7,083 in south Korea. (It is 1,527 in Japan, because the number of dentists is small.)

This difference in the number of doctors to serve people is due to the division of the country and to the idea and the outlook on the world which places man as most precious being in society. No doctor can take charge of so many people as 1,500 and 7,000 people lest they fall ill.

Let's see the mortality rates per 1,000 of the population. In 1979 it was 4.4 in the DPRK but it was 6.1 in Japan (which increased to 6.2 in 1980.) In south Korea, it was 8.9 in 1970-'75.

As a result of a decrease in mortality, the life span of the people has been extended. The average span of life in 1976 was 70 years for men and 76 years for women in the DPRK. (from the above mentioned report by Deputy Rim Chun Chu). In Japan, it was 74.22 years for men and 79,66 years for women in 1982. (Source: the 1982 simplified life expectancy table by the Statistical Bureau of the Welfare Ministry of Japan). In south Korea, it is 66.4 years for men and 71.5 years for women. (Source: the World Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations.)

At the time of Korea's liberation in 1945, the average span of life of the Koreans was 38 years. The average span of life of the Japanese was 50.06 years for men and 53.96 years for women according to the national census of 1947. According to the first life span survey, the average life span of the Japanese was 42.06 years for men and 43.20 years for women in 1921-'25. This shows that the average span of life of the Koreans was shorter. It is not rhetoric but truth that under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, the Korean people were just in the depths of slavish repression and poverty.

In the DPRK, it took only 31 years to lengthen the average span of life by 35 years (from 38 to 73 years). In Japan, it took 62 years to lengthen the life span of the Japanese 42.6 years (at that time of the first life survey expectancy in 1921-'25) to the present level (1983). But it was impossible for Japan to lengthen it by as much as 35 years. We can understand that the DPRK has achieved excellent results in health.

Korean people frequently say "youth at the age of 60-years, and the 60th birthday at the age of 90 years." These words are surprised to me who know that it was said that man's span of life was but fifty years. But I think that the Korean people are certain to accomplish this.

(Continued from page 2)

3. Establishment of Drainage System and Forestry and Water Conservancy

The establishment of drainage system and forestry and water conservancy is an important component of irrigation works.

Because our land is very much accidented, water flows into low places and lays many fields submerged. In particular, our country has 50-60 per cent of its annual precipitation in July and August, with occasional torrential rains of more than 200 mm a day in this season because of the abnormal weather. Therefore, the failure in establishing the proper drainage system and in forestry and water conservancy may cause irretrievably grave consequences not only to agricultural production but to different branches of the national economy.

In order to set up the drainage system large numbers of drainage pumping stations have been built in the low areas where water converges.

At present the drainage pumping stations constructed and operated in our rice-producing areas number 1,340. They are equipped with a required number of big water-pumps capable of draining off 0.9-1.2 cubic meters of water a second. If rains or stagnant waste water threaten the growth of rice, they are operated to drain away useless water to rivers or sea.

It is also important to dig contoured ditches and drainage channels in establishing the drainage system. Contoured ditches are dug around hillsides along contour lines so as to prevent the fields from being flooded by the rainwater streaming down the mountain slopes. Drainage ditches are dug along the low places in order to allow useless water to flow down by itself. The total extension of drainage ditches in our country is more than 1,460 km.

There are many crop fields including those in the low areas at the foot of mountains which can suffer from moisture damage because of the rising water level in case of rain. We set up a culvert system in such fields with stones or bush woods, thereby raising per-unit-area crop yields 2-3 times.

Thorough forestry and water conservancy should be undertaken to prevent flood damage. Forestry and water conservancy holds an important place in the nature-remaking projects for irrigation.

Many facilities and structures are installed on the rivers to use water for irrigation. As a result, our country, once frequented by calamities from floods or tide-waters, is now able to prevent flood damage thoroughly.

4. Creation of Material and Technical Foundations of Irrigation

Proper realization of irrigation in the country needs not only clay, sand and pebble but large quantities of cement, steel, timber, vinyl pipes; it also requires pumping machines, electric motors and transformers, as well as large numbers of building machines including surveying instruments, bulldozers, excavators, cableways, conveyers, and lorries.

Rodong Sinmun on Construction On Five District Fronts in DPRK

Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) on Jan. 9 in an editorial called upon the whole party and the entire people to vigorously accelerate construction on the five district fronts.

The editorial said:

In his new year address President Kim Il Sung defined construction on the five district fronts as one of the main tasks of socialist economic construction this year.

The policy of energetically pushing ahead with construction on the five district fronts this year is a just one which correctly reflects the actual conditions of the struggle to attain the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction and its prospective demands.

Construction on the five district fronts put forward by President Kim Il Sung is a key link in the construction for opening a brighter prospect for attaining the ten long-term objectives. Sunchon, Anju, Chongjin, Nampo and Hamhung districts are construction fronts of weighty significance in attaining the long-range objectives in such key industrial domains as steel, coal, electricity, textiles and chemistry.

Such bold construction operation as construction on these fronts is a gigantic undertaking which can be proposed and carried into practice only by our Party. The fighting capacity of our Party and the invincible power of the revolutionary units rallied steel-strong around the Party and the leader are a decisive guarantee for successfully hastening construction on these five district fronts.

The policy of construction on the five district fronts clearly proves *the wise guidance of our Party* which, basing itself on a scientific analysis of the matured requirements of the developing economy, always sets forth a high target and dynamically mobilizes the popular masses for its fulfilment to win victory after victory.

Construction on the five district fronts shows the mettle of our Party, a revolutionary Party which constantly plans and vigorously carries out bold construction operations for the future of socialist construction and the prosperity of the country and paves a bright road of the revolution.

Construction on the five district fronts is a worthwhile struggle to make our national economy more Juche-oriented, modernized and scientized, and more vital and to increase the politico-economic might of the country in every way.

This construction is being organized at a time when our revolution is faced with a grave challenge of the enemy. Now the enemy is intensifying military aggressive acts and new war provocation moves against the northern half of the country and leading the situation of the country to the brink of war. Under such tense situation, our Party organizes grand construction operations to accelerate economic construction, provide the people with a happier life and guarantee the development and prosperity of the country and the future of the nation. This is an expression of the consistent stand of our Party which always directs great efforts to peaceful construction.

Referring to tasks for vigorously accelerating construction on the five district fronts, the editorial stresses: The entire Party members and working people must dynamically push ahead with construction so as to open a bright prospect for *the attainment of the grand ten* long-range objectives and lead socialist economic construction to a great upsurge.

In Japan, the average span of life reached 74.22 years for men and 79.66 for women in 1982. By 2,015, it is estimated to be lengthened to 75.07 for men and 80.4 for women. (by "The New Estimation of the Future Population" by the Welfare Ministry), or to 77.45 for men and 82.94 for women by a private organization. Perhaps this may be the peak of man's life span. It is thought that it will not be lengthened further.

The Department of Health of the United States estimates that the average span of life will reach to 82.6 for men and 94.2 for women by 2,080.

If Korea's reunification is attained by removing the barbarous fascists from south Korea and establishing democracy, the health policy of the DPRK becomes more substantial in the DPRK which regards man as the most precious thing in society. And if so, it will be sure to meet the day when "youth for 60 years olds and the 60th birthday for 90 years olds" will be realized for the first time in the world. The DPRK is the only country that can do this.

(To be continued)

In implementing the basic line of socialist economic construction on giving priority to the development of heavy industry while simultaneously developing light industry and agriculture, we firmly built heavy industry not for its own sake but for the sake of light industry and agriculture.

Thus, our heavy industry sufficiently produced and supplied various materials, machinery and equipment needed for the rural technical revolution and, above all, for irrigation projects. At the same time, the construction of irrigation facilities can be successful only when precedence is given to the adequate surveying work and scientific technical designing and powerful building forces are prepared.

After the completion of all irrigation facilities, it is important to operate them on a scientific and technical basis, maintaining and repairing them regularly.

In our country the management and operation of large-scale irrigation systems are in charge of the regional irrigation control offices, while the county irrigation control offices are responsible for small and medium ones to the state.

Cooperative farms, too, have the technical irrigation system under which they manage and operate responsibly small- and medium-scale irrigation facilities in their respective areas; work-teams and sub-workteams of the cooperative farm have their own water controllers and pumping machine operators.

In order to ensure successful afforestation work, forest management offices set up free nurseries everywhere to produce and supply extensively fast-growing varieties of saplings which are of economic value, and give technical guidance and help to cooperative farms in growing young trees.

A vigorous struggle is now going on in our country to further consolidate the successes already achieved in irrigation. We are working hard to solve the problem of water supply to the 300,000 chongbo of tideland now being reclaimed in accordance with the grand programme of socialist economic construction for the 1980's.

(To be continued)

Social Democratic, Chondoist Chongu Parties Support 3-Way Talks Call

The Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party fully supported the new proposal of the DPRK Government to hold trilateral talks, considering it to be an important measure for removing tensions in Korea and creating a precondition for the peaceful reunification of the country and a momentous step for saving the country.

Ryom Guk Ryol, vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, issued a talk in support of the proposal for the trilateral talks made by a joint meeting of the proposal for the trilateral talks made by a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. If the most strained and acute situation in the world persists on the Korean Peninsula, it will result in a global war, a total nuclear war sweeping the world, he said.

Noting that under this grave situation, the problems can never be solved by means of confrontation, but be solved only through dialogue, he stressed: To hold trilateral talks is a most reasonable and realistic way for a peaceful solution of the Korean question.

He continued:

The proposal for the trilateral talks is anothe. manifestation of the sincere efforts of the DPRK Government to substantially solve problems through dialogue and negotiation, sitting face to face with the parties directly responsible for the present Korean situation.

The very one rendering the situation strained on the Korean Peninsula is the United States which keeps its troops in south Korea, entirely holds the prerogative of the command of the army and has meddled in the Korean affairs from long ago.

Therefore, the problem must be solved, first of all, with the United States in order to ease tensions in Korea and solve the Korean question by peaceful means.

As for the south Korean authorities, they are another party concerned aggravating tensions and creating the danger of war, following the United States.

So it is entirely just to hold trilateral talks and conclude a peace agreement between Korea and the United States, discuss the problem of the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from south Korea and adopt a non-aggression declaration between the north and south whose keynote is to refrain from using armed forces against one another and drastically reduce their armies and armaments.

Calling upon the United States and south Korean authorities to respond to our just and reasonable proposal for holding the trilateral talks, the vice-Chairman said: if they ignore our proposal, refuse to come out to the conference table and persist in war provocation manoeuvres under the pretext of "threat of southward invasion," going against peace and peaceful reunification, they will self-expose more glaringly to the world their true color as a bellicose element and splittist.

In his talk Chong Sin Hyok, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, stressed that the problems of the signing of a peace agreement and withdrawal of U.S. forces from south Korea which would be discussed between Korea and the United States and the problem of adopting a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south at the tripartite talks are the most reasonable and realistic way of preserving a durable peace in Korea and creating a guarantee for a peaceful solution of the Korean question.

Noting that how the U.S. authorities approach our proposal for the trilateral talks will be their clear answer to the question of peace or war, reunification or division, he said in conclusion: The United States should ponder over this and respond to our just proposal.

If the south Korean authorities are truly interested in peace of the country and its peaceful reunification, he said, they should not try to test their strength with us, with the backing of outside forces, but make a resolute decision to create a precondition for peaceful reunification by taking a practical measure at the trilateral talks to ease the tension and remove military confrontation.

KCNA Information on Japanese Ship "Fujisan-maru No. 18"

Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA) – The Korean Central News Agency issued the following information on January 12:

The servant organ of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is investigating the Japanese ship "Fujisan-maru No. 18" which was detained because of its criminal act in cruelly violating the sovereignty of our country.

It has been made clear through the investigation that its crewmen except the master and the chief engineer were not directly involved either in the act of espionage against the DPRK or in the criminal act of illegally shipping our citizen from Nampo Port to Japan.

Taking into consideration the fact that the crewmen of "Fujisan-maru No. 18" admitted that they violated the law and order of our country when their ship entered Nampo Port on November 15, 1983, and petitioned for leniency, the relevant organ of the DPRK decided to send them back except the master and the chief engineer.

In the course of investigation of the criminal act of the master and the chief engineer of "Fujisan-maru No. 18" the relevant organ of our country has got a new knowledge of the fact that they have engaged themselves systematically in the fact of espionage for spying on military and state secrets on the east and west coasts of our country.

According to the statements of the master and the chief engineer, they were instructed by the director of the Fuji Shipping Company who is a secret collaborator of a Japanese espionage organ, in January 1983 to fetch a Korean who is well aware of the inside situation of Nampo Port and, watching for a chance while entering and leaving the port, committed the criminal act of taking our citizen illegally to Japan from the wharf of Nampo Port in October last year.

The master and the chief engineer of "Fujisan-maru No. 18" said they came to Nampo Port again on the instructions of the director of the Fuji Shipping Company.

According to them, the director of the Fuji Shipping Company of Japan told the master of "Fujisan-maru No. 18", upon giving him an order for voyage to Nampo Port, that only when the ship went to Nampo Port would it be possible to conceal their criminal act and make one believe that they found the Korean only after they entered the Japanese territorial waters, thus concealing the fact that they illegally took him from the wharf of Nampo Port.

And he persuaded the master to accede to his demand, saying that things would go worse unless "Fujisan-maru No. 18" went to Nampo Port again.

We cannot but take it serious that a Japanese espionage organ was directly involved in the incident.

The relevant organ of the DPRK is continuing the investigation of "Fujisan-maru No. 18."

Pyongyang's New Initiative Endorsed By Japanese

Pyongyang's latest three-way talks proposal met with a wide-spread response among various sections of the Japanese.

The Joint Meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held on Jan. 10 in Pyongyang attached importance to the fact that the danger of nuclear warfare is growing on the Korean Peninsula.

It pointed out that the U.S. bears major responsibility for the present strained situation on the peninsula in which the danger of war is rapidly increasing. The joint meeting also noted that the south Korean authorities are another party responsible for the mounting tension.

The joint meeting, considering dialogue to be the only way to prevent nuclear warfare, made an epochal proposal to hold tripartite talks for the peaceful solution of the Korean question.

Sato Fumio, professor at Kyushu University highly evaluated Pyongyang's proposal as an independent and bright move and a fresh initiative.

Utsunomiya Tokuma, member of the House of Councillors welcomed Pyongyang's three-way talks proposal as a realistic overture to ease tensions and bring peace to the peninsula.

Pyongyang's latest proposal made clear again its consistent efforts for the peace of Asia and other world and for the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea.

Vice-chairman of Sohyo (General Council of Trade Unions in Japan) Yoshioka Tokujiro noted: "It is clear who is concerned about the tense situation prevailing over the Korean Peninsula and its vicinity and who makes an effort for creating conditions for peace."

Fujii Haruo, expert on military affairs, said, "The latest proposal showed the peace-loving stance of the DPRK. The Japanese people will come to understand the real intent of the proposal.

"Replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace agreement is the first step toward averting the danger of war." **Ishigaki Ayako, a critic** said:

Ioka Taiji, Chairman of the Osaka Headquarters of the Socialist Party of Japan said "It is essential for the U.S. to withdraw its troops from south Korea to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula."

Miyajima Hisashi, professor at Gakushuin University said:

"The latest proposal of the DPRK is a very realistic one. A DPRK-U.S. peace agreement is very important not only for the peace of the world but also for the aspiration of the Korean people after the reintegration of their nation."

Ito Narihiko, professor at Chuo University said:

"The DPRK made a proposal to the U.S. and south Korea to hold three-way talks to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The existing armistice agreement has been a factor responsible for aggravating tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Therefore, it is very important to replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

As the DPRK points out, it is also important to create conditions favorable for Korea's reunification, by reducing north and south Korea's armed forces. This must be realized as early as possible.

The neighboring countries of Korea should take active measures to promote the proposed three-way talks."

Iwai Akira, Chairman of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea said: The proposal to hold tripartite talks with the United States by letting the south Korean authorities participate in it is a realistic and bold one to turn the present tense situation moving toward the brink of war in favor of peace in Korea and her independent and peaceful reunification through dialogue.

As the danger of war, nuclear war in particular, is now rapidly increasing significance in peacefully solving the Korean question, I think.

Kajitani Yoshihisa, critic said that the proposal of Pyongyang to Washington and Seoul to hold tripartite talks on the Korean question reaffirmed that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consistently wants to realise peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification through dialogue without recourse to force arms.

Honorary Professor Takashima Nagayoshi at Ibaraki University, noted:

Considering that the sincere reunification proposals of the DPRK including the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo are very realistic ones, I have invariably supported them.

Regarding the proposal for tripartite talks as part of such reunification policy of the DPRK, I allroundly support this proposal.

The DPRK's proposal is a just and realistic one.

Foreign Mass Media

Foreign mass media give wide publicity to the new measure for a peaceful solution of the Korean question taken at a Joint Meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The French newspaper "L'humanite" and "Le Monde" on January 12 carried news that the joint meeting decided to propose tripartite talks and adopted letters to the government and congress of the United States and to the south Korean authorities, and conveyed the words of the letters that the tripartite talks may be held at Panmunjom or any other place.

Referring to the new measure taken at the joint meeting, Italian newspapers called it "flawless proposal" and "epochal initiative."

The Italian newspaper "L'unite" carried news of the joint meeting under the titles "Proposal for Easing Tension in Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang Proposes Tripartite Talks," "Convocation of All-Nation Conference for Country's Reunification Proposed."

Italian newspapers "Avanti," "La Republic," "Pease Sera," "Corriere Della Sera," "Il Tempo" and "La Stampa" reported the new measure taken at the joint meeting for the peaceful solution of the Korean question under the titles "Pyongyang Proposes Peace Dialogue," "North Korea Proposes Talks to Seoul and the United States."

The Malian radio and TV reported twice news of the joint meeting on January 11.

The Angolan news agency and radio and television on January 12 said that the joint meeting decided to propose to hold tripartite talks by letting the south Korean authorities participate in talks between the DPRK and the United States and adopted letters to the U.S. Government and congress and to the south Korean authorities.

The Pakistan television conveyed news of the joint meeting and the radio of Pakistan aired the same news on January 11.

Pakistan papers "Pakistan Times" and "Muslim" January 12 carried the gist of the information on the joint meeting under the respective titles "North Korea Proposes Tripartite Talks" and "Korea's Reunification."

The information was also conveyed by the Gabonese Radio No. 1 and newspaper "Union" January 12, Egyptian papers "Al Goumhouria" January 13 and "Al Akhbar" "Al Ahram" and "Egyptian Gazette" January 12 and the Egyptian news agency and radio and television and Indian newspapers "National Herald," "Jan Yug" and "Statesman" on January 13.

The Somali paper "Horseed" January 13 under the title "The DPRK Proposes to Hold Talks with the United States" noted that a new step for the peaceful solution of the Korean question was taken and letters respectively to the United States and to the south Korean authorities were adopted at the joint meeting.

Reporting the gist of the information on the joint meeting, the Congolese News Agency January 12 said: the United States is chiefly to blame for the fact that the tension is permanently prevailing on the Korean Peninsula and the situation has been pushed to the brink of war as today. Under such circumstances it is impossible to ease the tension and open a peaceful phase for national reunification in Korea without directly meeting and solving the problem with the United States."

The Zimbabwean paper "Herald" January 12, reporting that the DPRK proposed at the joint meeting to hold tripartite talks with the United States and south Korea, pointed to the consistent efforts of the DPRK Government for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and its reunification.

All Lebanese papers including "Al Safir" and "Al Shaab" and Ghanaian papers "People's Daily Graphic" and "The Ghanaian Times" January 13 also reported the joint meeting.

Reporting the gist of the information on the joint meeting, The Nepalese paper "Rising Nepal" January 12 said:

The joint meeting put forward a new proposal to hold tripartite talks between Korea, the United States and the south Korean authorities in order to create favorable preconditions for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

It proposed to create preconditions for independent and peaceful reunification by signing a Korea-U.S. peace agreement, withdrawing the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from south Korea and adopting a declaration of non-

(Continued on page 7)

Crisis-Ridden South Korean Economy

A leading Japanese economic magazine "Zaikai" in its November 15 issue carried an article on south Korea's economy analyzing its international balance of payments and its snow-balling external debts. Here are excerpts from the article.

* Military Spending Gets One-Third of Budget

Dangerous symptoms have emerged in broad areas of the south Korean economy in recent years, which are described as a byproduct of the high-growth economic policy of the late Pak "regime".

Military expenditures occupy 33 – 34% of the total national budget, as they are needed to maintain the armed forces, the fourth largest in the world. Fruits of the economic growth, called "miracle of the Han River," found their way into the military outlays, without reflowing into economy. As a result, the south Koreans have been compelled to import such raw materials as are indispensable for the national economy, and now south Korea has attained a dishonor of becoming the biggest debt-ridden country in Asia.

Therefore, Chon Du Hwan's tour to foreign countries has one aspect of rebuilding the national economy, of removing structural trade deficit, of reducing accumulated external debts and of securing raw materials and opening international markets for south Korean-made commodities.

So in the future, too, he cannot stop his foreign tours.

* Hell-Like External Debts

The most urgent difficulty that the present "regime" faces now is to reduce its external debts. The three countries with the largest foreign debts in the world are such Latin American countries as Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, which have already declared the policy of moratorium.

According to a report of the "Korea Development Institute" (KDI) a total amount of south Korean external debts reached $3.73 billion as of the end of 1982, which occupies 56.4% of south Korea's GNP. It rose to $3.82 billion in June 1983, and also is expected to reach to $4.09 billion by the end of the same year, which will win south Korea the worst fourth place after Argentina. It appears that south Korean external debts, $1.95 billion in 1975, have doubled during the last three years.

Interest repayments account for more than 50% of its current accounts. The "KDI" report indicated that during the fifth-economic plan (1981 – 86) more than $6 billion of foreign capital would be necessary for it successful management, resulting in increased dependency on external debts.

The same report predicted that the introduction of new loans would become more difficult to get. South Korea's external debts which amount to $40 billion means that $1,000 should be paid back by each, including babies. What aggravates the problem of its external debts is that they has been accumulated not because of delayed payment but because of yearly interest-addition.

This situation is portrayed as "the hell of loans" by some economists here. Foreign capital, once introduced as investments for the economic growth at the beginning, has changed in recent years into debt to return debt.

According to the "government" plan for 1983, it planned to introduce more than $6 billion in foreign funds, of which $2.5 billion goes for payment of medium- and long-term external debts, $1.5 billion for making up for its current account deficts and $0.3 billion for the foreign currency reserves.

Trade balance is also supposed to register $1 billion deficits in 1983. South Korea's trade, now at the level of $50 billion, needs $6 billion of foreign currency holdings at all time.

Foreign currency holdings, which amounted to approximately $7 billion at the end of 1982, dropped to $6 billion in April of 1983, so that the south Korean "government" had to introduce a short-term bank loans.

This time their pressing task is to pay short-term credits.

Needless to say, the foreign currency holdings show the degree of credit worthiness of south Korea to international financial institutions.

It is said that the foreign currency holdings at least at the level of $7 billion must be maintained at all time.

As of the end of September 1983 their foreign currency reserves were $6.31 billion. With the rapidly increasing external debts, a more serious trouble is that short-term loans with disadvantageous condition attached are adding to the high-rate interests.

A short-term loans share in the external debts occupied 16.9% in 1972, 31.2% in 1980, and jumpted up to 57% in 1982. South Korea's interest burden is also increasing owing to the duplicated hike of international interest rates. Last year south Korea paid back some $5.87 billion of its foreign loans with interest added, of which the share of the interest amounted to $3.75 billion, (The Dong-A Ilbo, Feb. 16, 1983).

Of south Korea's external debts 66% is the interest repayment.

Therefore, when the international interest rate rises by 1% the south Koreans have to pay $2.7 billion as a additional interest payment.

* Flagging Construction Export to Middle East

The "KDI" gave an advice to the "government" to establish the policy of 1) limiting the introduction of credit to the maximum; 2) setting a consistent line of currency, interest and the exchange rate for U.S. dollar.

South Korea's credit worthiness, however, has increasingly been lowered.

In June 1983 IMF (International Monetary Fund) supplied south Korea with $620 million in standby credit. A political settlement was realized between south Korea and Japan during the Japanese premier Nakasone's trip to Seoul in January 1983 in the name of "south Korea-Japan economic cooperation" whose content is that $4 billion would be supplied to south Korea in the next 7 years.

The IMF put out an additional condition to south Korea that 1) the total currency increase rate should be limited within 15%; 2) foreign debts should be within $40 billion.

Chon Du Hwan, for this reason, tried to totally amend the fifth-five-year-plan in June 1983, which is said "a night-made work" by then Japanese foreign minister Sonoda for begging $10 billion credit from Japan, and regarded as a guideline for a new inflow of foreign capital.

However, Japan's credit won was $4 billion and also delayed so that the five-year-plan failed on its mid-way in one and a half year.

The large-scale projects including constructions of a new national railway network and petro-chemical complexes were postponed or suspended for the "government" plan to decrease foreign debts.

Accordingly Japan's credit to south Korea lost its reason for foundation because of the total amendment of the five-year-plan which was the original basis of supplying the credit.

This and withstanding, the Japanese government started supplying its first-year government credit to south Korea in mid-October 1983.

Total amendment of the fifth-five-year-plan was caused by the failure of original plan to introduce foreign capital; and moreover, the south Korean balance of payments is doubly worsened, due to the sluggish exports.

Each target of south Korea's economy was established based on increased exports, so that the stagnant exports have become the prime cause the dismal economic performance. South Korea set $24.5 billion of the export goal for 1982 at an 18 – 19% increase over the previous year but the result was downed to $21.8 billion. Therefore, it set its 1983 goal at a pretty lower level of $23.5 billion. However, it faces once again huge difficulty in achieving the pre-set goal.

Even if they limit the import to the minimum level, it is supposed to surpass the level of $25.5 billion, producing $3 billion trade deficit.

One of the major factors of its export inactivity is that the once-inflated construction contracts to the Middle Eastern countries have rapidly shrinked down in recent years. The orders received from the foreign countries by south Korean construction companies are only $3.6 billion as of August of 1983, merely 38% of the figure of $9.5 billion in the same period of the previous year's.

South Korea, has no powerful export-leading commodity and has no other choise for a moment than promoting money-losing exports in the field of ship-building and steel markets.

South Korea, compelled to drastically shift its economic policy to the low-growth, shows tendency of delaying the payment of the wages to workers including big enterprises. There is no way found to repress the hike of unemployment.

According to the "government" announcement a number of those companies, which have not paid the wages as of September 9, 1983, reached 22% whose total amount was 10 billion won (or 21% increase over the previous year), with the increase rate of public wages downed to around 6% increase (2 – 3% down from the previous year). They are adding to the reasons for social unrest.

However, the international money market has been tight in recent years, because of defaults of foreign debts by a number of countries.

The size of loans extended by the international money market with rapidly decreased to $95 billion last year from 1981's $160 billion and particularly loans to non-oil producing countries dropped rapidly to $20 billion, or less than half the highest level of $50 billion.

Some of those countries which were once fund-supplying countries, including oil-exporting developing countries have become debtor nations.

Deteriorating Conditions for Borrowings

It is natural that loan extension conditions will deteriorate – raised interest rates and shortened redemption periods. On Euro-dollars interest tended to decline in August 1982, recovered from the latter half of last year and stays at around 10% at present.

Interest rates in the U.S., which determine international interest rates are not expected to drop for some time to come owing to the $200 billion deficits of the U.S. budget.

The tight international money market and deteriorating borrowing conditions make us concerned about the supply of foreign funds to our country.

This leads to a heavier interest burden, which in turn kicks off a visions circle of snow-balling foreign debts. It is an urgent task for our country to extricate itself from the state in which south Korea has to further induct foreign loans to pay off foreign debts.

Increasing Pressure of Foreign Debts on South Korea

The south Korean magazine "Shin Dong-A" in its December 1983 issue carried an article entitled "Increasing pressure of foreign debts and export trends" written by Pak Yong Sang, a director of south Korean Chamber of Commerce). Follow excerpts from the article.

$40 Billion at Year End

The serious problem of south Korea's foreign debts is the fact that they are rapidly increasing. The total amount of foreign debts, which had stood at $3.6 billion in 1972, jumpted to $37.3 billion by 1982, showing a rapid 10-fold increase in 10 years, or an annual average increase rate of more than 24%. This rapid advance in foreign debts is due largely to the world-wide inflation and the depreciation of the U.S. dollar in the wake of the two "oil crises" in the 1970s, but this is not necessarily the only explanation. This is because south Korea's debts not only have increased in their absolute value, but have come to carry relatively heavy weight in the national economy. In other words, the ratio of foreign debts to the GNP, which stood at 35% in 1972, continuously rose to reach 56% in 1982. If foreign debts increased in fiscal 1983 are added, the south Korea's debts reach $40 billion ($40.59 billion as of Jan. 1984). This means that the population owes a debt of $1,000 (800,000 won) per head.

From the viewpoint of trends in the foreign debts of all developing countries it can not be overlooked that south Korea's foreign debts show a relatively high increase rate. The total amount of foreign debts of all developing countries, which was estimated at $100 billion 12 years ago, rose to $700 billion at the end of 1982, showing a 7-fold increase. But the increase rate is far lower than that of south Korea.

This is clear from the ratio of south Korea's debts from the international money market to its total loan extensions. The ratio which stayed at 4 – 5% in the 1970s, jumpted to 7.6% in 1981.

South Korea's Foreign Debts

There is no denying that south Korea's foreign debts have already absolutely and relatively exceeded its paying capacity. The repayment capacity rate of principal sums and interest reckons only with on medium- and long-term loans. Therefore, it is not sufficiently representative. For instance, in case the amount of foreign debts is the same, the rate is lowered if the ratio of short-term loans with unfavorable interest conditions long-term loans is increased, but actually the total debts are boosted.

Increasing Short-Term Loans

The ratio of short-term loans to the total foreign debts rose to 27.6% in 1982 from 16.7% in 1972 and the structure of foreign debts deteriorated. If the composition rate of long- and short-term loans had not deteriorated, and if foreign debts had increased, maintaining the rate in 1972, the debts repayment capacity rate in 1982 would have been a level slightly above 18%.

In spite of the fact that the ratio of middle- and long-term loans to the balance of foreign debts has been reduced, the debts repayment capacity rate has risen. This reflects a high increase rate of foreign debts as compared with an increase in the current account revenue.

This is graphically illustrated by the fact that the ratio of repayments of principal sums and interest to the current account revenue jumpted from 38.8% in 1972 to 50.8% in 1982. The fact that when the current account is in a state of deficits, to earmark more than 50% of the current account revenue to the redemption of foreign debts, means that borrowings have to be repeated for repayment of debts.

In 1982, south Korea inducted $4.67 billion, of which $4.42 billion, or 95% of the amount, was allocated for the redemption of principal sums and interest. There are several indicators of a country's capability of foreign debts' redemption and its international credibility in addition to the debts repayment capacity rate. Superficially it seems that south Korea is in a favorable condition from the fact that it places 34th on the list of risky countries in a report of the "Euro-Meoney". But this is no solice to us in view of the fact that Venezuela now in the process of debts readjustment, places 40th on the list and that the risk model of the Export and Import Bank of America is based on an analysis of data gathered before the "oil crisis". We should attach importance to this kind of indicators, made public by international financial institutions and research institutes, since they have no small effect on the conditions for loans inducted by our country.

Difficult to Resolve Debts

South Korea's foreign debts both absolutely and relatively have already become unbearably large and no prospect is obtained for their reduction. The situation is such that our foreign debts are certain to increase for the time in view of the present state of our country's balance of payments position.

As of the end of June this year the balance of south Korea's foreign debts already reached $38.2 billion, and the "government" estimates that the redemption burden of principal sums and interest will rapidly increase from 46 billion this year, to $7 billion next year, $7.7 billion in 1985, and to $8.5 billion in 1986.

At a time when the repayment burden of foreign debts is going to increase in future, another problem is to secure smooth borrowings.

Kim Dae Jung's Interveiw with The Sekai (10)

(Continued from the previous issue)

4 The Situation of the South Korean Economy and Solution of Its Problems

Mr. Y: As you said, I think we can't separate economic problems from the political situation.

The south Korea is now systemazized after a period of high growth and industrialization under the Pak "regime". Even those who support the present "regime", and think that it is stable, say it is very difficult for the "regime" to improve the economic situation.

But at the same time, there are doubts as to whether the democratic forces can solve serious economic problems even if they are in "power".

Would you please comment on the problems in future?

Mr. Kim: I've never criticized any problem ranging from reunification, foreign affairs, national security to domestic politics without proposing any alternative program.

And I have never criticized any men of the Chon "regime", whatever their positions without proposing my plans. I think this is the proper attitude to be taken by any man who is engaged in politics.

On this basis, I'd like to make some proposals concerning our economic problems.

First, what is the economy for? What is most important is to set an economic task and change the economic system accordingly.

The purpose of economic activity is to improve quality of people's life and their mental development. But the economy now serves the minority.

The majority still suffers from the problems of food, clothing, housing. They don't have any guarantee for their children's education and cultured life. I think we must change our economy for the minority to one for the majority.

Second, I support a free economy, so I am not against enterprising people.

Mr. Kim: I think enterprising people are respected in a democracy as improtant elements in society. At the same time I want to say that enterprising people should live up to their economic ethnics.

I think enterprising people are those who earn money. They should earn money fairly and use it in a fair way. This means that they should supply consumers with high-quality goods at the lowest cost. This is their first task.

The second is to pay fair wages to workers in order to encourage them to increase productivity and to stabilize their living to an extent where the existence of enterprises are not threatened.

Thirdly enterprising people shouldn't spend their profits on nonproductive purposes such as luxury, but invest their profits again so that their enterprise may prosper more than before.

These are the three major tasks for enterprising people. At present some south Korean enterprises are engaged in "social charity".

They sell inferior goods on consumers at high prices to rake in fabulous profits. They don't pay fair wages to the laborers. Instead, they spend some of their money on "charity" in order to appease their conscience.

In a democracy, enterprising people are respected if they live up to these three principles, and result the government cannot but help supporting enterprising people.

In this process, enterprising people should distribute their stocks to as many people as possible, and stabilize their enterprises as national enterprises.

Thirdly, we must develop the south Korean economy internally. We must utilize our country's resources and Its characteristic features.

We should revitalize agriculture and fishery, moreover, we should modernize smaller businesses and develop a cooperative system in association with related enterprises.

In this way, we should stabilize our economy making use of interaction among our domestic economic fields.

It is not good for us to depend on export totally and be influenced easily by a world recession. If our economy develops internally, all the economic sectors will prosper.

Fourthly, like Japan, south Korea has no natural resources. So, economically, we must make vast investments and at the same time make efforts for education.

In the world, in Asia, in Central and south America there are many poor countries, though they have sufficient natural resources.

But, countries like European nations and Japan whose human resources are well developed are not poor.

I think south Korea should develop human resources from now on.

Wages are now rising in south Korea and this is necessary in order to promote hightech industries.

Fifthly, we must pay attention to our relations with foreign enterprises and foreign investments.

I think it is very uneconomical to reject foreign investment as colonialist or comrador economy. The world is now becoming one and no country can't get on without cooperation in trade or economic development.

The problem is whether a country receive aid independently or subordinately. So I am not satisfied with the way Japan extends aid to south Korea, but we, south Koreans, too, are responsible for this – the corrupt Pak "regime" and Chon "regime" and easy-going enterprising people.

They try to make money in a non-economical way rather than by saving money in an economical way.

I think the way Japanese sell goods in China differs from the way they do in south Korea. I think they never think bribing Chinese or giving them political funds when they sell goods in China, though they do so in our country.

Because, China takes a different attitude. A country receiving aid must take a fair, strict attitude, and make it clear that it can't receive any unfair cooperation.

Its unfair cooperation can't last long because of people's opposition to it, and this applies to a recipient country.

What regime can establish long standing economic relations? Nothing but a democratic government can do so, a government which represents the people, and which is watched by the people.

I think a real democracy is a government by the people. There are 160 countries in the world, and almost all countries uphold democracy.

But in fact, there are only 30 of them that are regarded as democratic, because all the other countries don't reflect people's will in their politics.

I think government by the people is the very essence of democracy. I mentioned five tasks necessary to be fulfilled to improve our economy, and a government which can carry out these tasks is nothing but a democratic government choosen and watched by the people.

5 Age of Mass Revolution

Mr. Y: These 10 years have been a period of two waves – dramatic action and reaction. I want to ask you what you think of these significant years.

Mr. Kim: I think we can define our era as "the era of mass revolution". They say that there were 4 evils after the birth of humankind.

The first is slavery, the second racial discimination, the third is oppression, and the fourth is war. Both personal and national slavery have been done away with. Of course there are remnant of slavery but they are destined to be removed.

Second, racial discrimination is also bound to be banished, and it can't be supported any more even though it is still alive.

So such countries as South Africa are denounced in the world. The third evil, that is exploitation of man. This isn't justifiable either.

The conditions of workers in Europe, Japan and America prove this.

There is no social stability in countries like Central and South American countries and south Korea in which workers are exploited savagely. This is proof that exploitation can't survive. Today, only war, coupled with nationalism is justified.

Everywhere, those who kill as many enemies as they can in war, are praised as heroes.

This is, it is one with nationalism. There are two kinds of nationalism. One is expansionist, aggressive nationalism. The other is internal defensive nationalism. For example, Japan's invasion of Korea and China was expansionist and aggressive nationalism and so, should be denounced.

But nationalism to defend one's country like the Korean Independence Movement, African people's uprising for their right should be justified.

We ought to distinguish expansionist from defensive nationalism. But frankly speaking, nationalism whether expansionist or defensive one tends to be exclusionist in character at any rate, unfortunately war is approved in the name of nationalism.

Abolition of slavery led to the liberation of the masses.

It is the masses that are liberated from racial prejudice. And, it is also the masses that are victimized by oppression.

Finally, the masses have been or are being liberated from three of the four evils. If a war should break out, it is the people who would suffer from it.

It happens in many cases that the haves prosper by war. Peace is essential for the liberation of the masses.

The only remaining evil is war. Yet, we can't solve a national despute now by resorting to arms, because of the appearance of nuclear arms and their development.

If the U.S. and the USSR confronting each other should use nuclear arms, it will result in their mutural destruction. If they are sensible, they can't go to war.

(To be continued)

Dangerous U.S. Mil. Acts in Central America and South East Asia

Central America

Rodong Sinmun in a commentary January 18 demands that the U.S. renounce its anachronistic "policy of strength" and withdraw its blood-stained hand of aggression and intervention from Central America.

Noting that the "commission on Central America" headed by former U.S. State Secretary Kissinger recently submitted to Reagan a "report" on the Central American problem, the signed commentary says:

The "report" is run through with the shameless design of the U.S. to rule and control the countries in this region forever by brandishing the "big stick" more wildly.

Its authors, to begin with, raise outcries over someone's threat to the "U.S. security interests" and call for "extensive reforms" in this region with the support of the U.S. dollars and even demand that $8 billion be earmarked for the dictatorial regimes in this region in economic and military aid in five years to come. This reveals the brigandish scheme of the U.S. to set up pro-U.S. dictatorial governments pleasing them better in the Central American countries and keep hold on this region as their permanent "hereditary estate."

Praising Reagan's Central American policy, the "report" says that the task of the United States is to attain its aim by taking advantage of the Central American crisis. This means that the United States should force military intervention as in Grenada when it considered it necessary. This is an open threat and blackmail to the Central American countries advancing along the road of independence and a robber-like outburst threatening "the second and third Grenada incident" in the region.

The U.S. aggressive moves in Central America must be stopped.

The Central American peoples are heightening vigilance against the activities of the "commission on Central America" and are firmly determined to thwart and frustrate the U.S. aggression and intervention.

Pyongyang, January 17 (KCNA) – Papers here Jan. 17lashed out at the plot of the U.S. to increase military aid to the Salvadoran dictatorial regime.

Rodong Sinmun in a signed commentary said:

The 205 million dollars the Reagan administration is going to grant to the Salvadoran dictatorial regime are a military fund for propping up the reactionary Magana dictatorship shaken to its very foundation by the anti-U.S., anti-dictatorship struggle for democracy waged by the Salvadoran patriots and people and driving it into the repression of the people. This once again strips bare the hypocrisy of the U.S. trumpeting about "peace" and "security" in Central America.

By putting again a huge amount of money in the hands of the Magana regime, the Reagan government seek to shore up the Salvadoran reactionary regime at any cost and extinguish the flames licking their "backyard". But this is a foolish attempt.

The Americans should give up their ridiculous dream of keeping hold on Central America for ever and withdraw their hands of intervention from this area including El Salvador.

Minju Choson in a commentary hits at the "committee on Central America" headed by former U.S. State Secretary Kissinger which, in its report on the situation in this region, called for a drastic increase of military aid to the Salvadoran reactionaries and demanded that a fabulous amount of money to the tune of 8,000 million dollars be granted to the reactionaries in the region in the five years to come.

Southeast Asia

Pyongyang, January 13 (KCNA) – Rodong Sinmun January 13 came out with an article entitled "U.S. Scheme to Dominate Southeast Asia."

The author of the article says:

To seize Southeast Asia which holds an important position in military strategy is an invariable aggresive design of the U.S.

Reagan openly reveals his intention to strengthen the U.S. forces' military domination over Southeast Asia, prattling that he would "consider" the "commitments" to countries in this region on the same level as those to NATO member nations.

He sent his diplomatic advisor to Southeast Asian countries in November 1980 to stress the need to establish a "collective security system". He also frequently dispatched bosses of the administration and military to these countries in an attempt to put them under the U.S. military domination.

While trying to dominate the Southeast Asian region by force of arms, Americans schemes to maintain and further expand their military bases in this region.

The Americans are establishing new military bases in some South-east Asian countries. At the same time, they are taking steps to reinforce those in the Philippines and other countries.

They signed a new "agreement on military base" with the Philippines in June last year.

Foreign press reports called the new "agreement" a unilateral and aggresive one for strengthening the military presence of the U.S.

The U.S. is also ceaselessly staging military exercises in the Southeast Asian region.

Last year alone, Americans held various joint military exercises including "Merlion 83-2."

In recent years the number of portcalls of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Southeast Asian countries has increased and the espionage flight of "B 52" strategic bombers over this region has become more frequent.

Facts show how hard the U.S. tries to militarily dominate South-east Asian countries and convert this region into a bridgehead for aggression on Asia.

BY FEDERATION OF S.KOREAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN

Report on "Kisaeng Tourism" (1)

On Jan. 12 last year, the Federation of South Korean Christian Women made public a 58-page report titled "Kisaeng Tourism."

The report, written in Korean consists of 10 parts, which include the present situation of tourism and Japanese tourists; spots of kisaeng parties; export of kisaeng; and travel cost reduction by travel agencies and prostitution tourism.

The report is drawn up based on fact-finding investigations into the situation in four major south Korean cities including Pusan.

The report describes in detail the actual conditions of kisaeng tourism from the 1970s to the 80s. The report will give a clue to the actual conditions of tourism under the Chon rule.

The Federation of the South Korean Christian Women consists of six Christian organizations including Methodists and Presbyterian organizations.

The federation voiced angry protest against kisaeng tourism in 1973 for the first time. In 1976 chairperson Li Gu Jong of the federation signed on "Declaration for Democracy and National Salvation," which criticized dictatorial rule by the then Pak Jung Hi "regime" and called for democratization of the south Korean society.

The federation has been engaged in social activities, particularly the cause of the human rights of female workers and others.

Below The People's Korea sums up the report:

Kisaeng means a professional entertainer. For hundreds of years kisaeng were intellectual women of Korea. Kisaeng in the past period were excellent in some special arts and are different from today's kisaeng prostitution women of south Korea.

* * *

On the publication of this report, Mrs. Kong Duk Hwi, wife of expression of "patriotism" or "patriotic allegiance to the country."

The south Korean "government" can't avoid its responsibility for *kisaeng* tourism.

The report reveals that the south Korean "government" has been involved in *kisaeng* tourism.

In order to earn foreign currency, it resorted even to prostitution tourism.

Unable to remain idle-onlookers, we investigated the actual conditions of *kisaeng* tourism in 1974 in south Korea, made clear our stance on the matter and demand its prohibition.

However, *kisaeng* tourism has been extensively carried on in recent years and prostitution is practiced even in foreign countries in the name of international marriage "artistes", and permanent residence.

Our federation investigated the actual conditions of tourism and *kisaeng* tourism in Seoul, Cheju, Pusan and Kyongju in order to obtain accurate information on the actual conditions of inhuman, unnatural and immoral *kisaeng* tourism.

As a result, we estimate the number of women engaging in *kisaeng* tourism at more than 300,000, or three times the number in 1978.

A foreigner who had experienced what a guide book on *kisaeng* tourism wrote said that he felt as if he had bought a slave at a slave market. His remarks show that women of our country are sold cheap and are suffering from hardships.

These women are required to get certificates to enter hotels freely. In order to get certificates, they are asked to get trained. There they are told that foreign currency they will earn will contribute to the country's economic development and to sell their bodies to foreigners is not prostitution but a "patriotic act." This training reminds us of that for women "volunteer corps" in the colonial days. We can't but feel sad.

Girls, who believed what advertizements say, had visited offices of smuggling organizations, were sold to brothels and sink into bottomless debts.

They continue prostitution, unable to get out of this plight.

In her preface to the report Kong Dok Hwi criticized the social system which can't help these poor women and the irresponsibility of mass media, which have publicized *kisaeng* tourism.

Introduction

After defining tourism as a tertiary industry, our "government" spared no effort to give administrative support for the development of tourism by treating it preferentially.

Many problems remained unsolved in the development of tourism. They include shortage of overnight accomodations, bad services, limited tourists potential, etc. Particularly *kisaeng* tourism, namely, prostitution tourism, reveals a negative aspect of south Korean society.

If the "government" earns foreign currency amounting to 500 million or 50 billion won by selling even the chastity of our women, the "government" should be made to stand trial in the name of history and national prestige.

Seriousness of the matter can be seen in the fact that our country is publicized as a "women hunting ground for men." In 1973 Japan's women's council made a protest. The council sent two representatives to south Korea in order to inspect the pleasure quarters in south Korea and reported the result of their inspection in Japan.

South Korean women are widely known as *kisaeng* in France, the U.K., the U.S., West Germany and other European countries.

Historically the chastity of Korean women is proverbially seen in the annals of women in the world.

Today, south Korean women are well-known as kisaeng who can be bought cheap.

Tourism in south Korea includes *kisaeng* parties or parties of the sort which are hardly seen in other countries.

It is only in south Korea that had systematically promoted prostitution tourism under the protection of the "government" by licensed tourist agencies.

Investigations were conducted at Seoul, Pusan, Cheju and Kyongju, where many foreign tourists visit. This report was drawn up on the basis of talks with organization concerned and women engaging in tourism. The investigations, conducted for three months from Feb. 15 to May 15.

Present Condition of Tourism and Japanese Tourists

In the 1960s Americans carried heavy weight among foreign tourists to south Korea. In the beginning of 60s, Americans accounted for 40 percent of all the foreign tourists to south Korea and Japanese 10%.

After the conclusion of the "ROK-Japan treaty" in 1965, Japanese tourists gradually increased. In 1965 Japanese accounted for 15 percent of all the foreign tourists to south Korea; 30% in the latter 60s; 41% in 1971; 73.5% in 1972 and 80% in 1973. Of late, the number of Japanese increased by around 63%. On the contrary, Americans held 10% of all the foreign tourists.

It was in and after 1973 that Japanese group tourists increased sharply. In this period overseas travel agencies and hotel operators were able to earn profits. In a short period of time, new hotels were built and big business began to finance hotel construction.

Japanese occupied more than 60 percent of all the foreign tourists in 1973.

Asked what impressed them most, 80 percent of the Japanese tourists cited *kisaeng* parties.

Mr. B of Aju Tourist Agency in Pusan said that Japanese tourists spent money first on women and then on gifts.

A hotel worker in Pusan said: ".... I wonder if I can find two among 100 Japanese tourists who are aiming only at sight-seeing.

85 percent of the Japanese tourists are men. Of them 60 percent are in their 40s or 50s.

The number of Japanese tourists is increasing day by day. According to an investigation by PATA, a tourist association in the Pacific region, south Korea placed 9th among the 28 countries which foreign tourists don't want to visit again. However, Japanese tourists visit south Korea repeatedly. This is because of "*kisaeng* parties."

Another reason why Japanese tourists rush to south Korea is advertisements by travel agencies, for example, ".... Koreans from middle age up can speak Japanese. Therefore, there is no language barrier there." A large number of weekly magazine play up experiences in *kisaeng* parties.

Without looking into the background of *kisaeng* parties there is no knowing the actual condition of our country's foreign tourism.

(To be continued)

(Continued from page 4)

aggression between north and south and then to hold a north-south dialogue for reunification.

Another Nepalese paper "Gorkhapatra" January 12 carried a similar report.

The Jordanian paper "Jordan Times" January 12, reporting about the joint meeting, said:

South Korea decided to send letters proposing to hold trilateral talks respectively to U.S. congress and government and to the south Korean authorities.

Under the title "Most Just and Positive Measure for Peaceful Reunification of the Country" The ANTA News Agency of Madagascar reported the information on January 13. It said:

The joint meeting decided to hold tripartite talks by letting the south Korean authorities, another party responsible for the mounting tensions in Korea today, participate in the talks between the United States.

The joint meeting said that a north-south dialogue for reunification would be held after creating favorable preconditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by signing a peace agreement with the United States and adopting a declaration of non-aggression between north and south.

S. Korean Youth Defector Interviewed

South Korean youth defector Kim Yong Hwan, former soldier of the puppet army

Kim Yong Hwan, a soldier of the south Korean puppet army who came over to the northern half of the DPRK ardently called upon officers and men of the "ROK army" to turn the rifles on to the Yankee and its stooge, the Chon Du Hwan junta and come over to the side of the people and patriotism, KCNA reported on Dec. 8 last year.

He made this appeal when he met with home and foreign reporters on Dec. 8 in Pyongyang.

He was private of the second platoon, third company, first battalion, 63rd regiment, 21st division, third army corps of the "ROK army". He came over to the northern half of the DPRK in September.

Noting that he has been leading a worthy life in the northern half for the first time in his life, he expressed deep thanks to President Kim Il Sung and Mr. Kim Jong Il for providing him with happiness today.

He said that he has goose flesh when he thinks how he was forsaken and maltreated in the society of the south and he was subjected to forcible training and backbreaking labour, terrible corporal punishment and inhuman humiliation in the "ROK army."

I wanted to live a worthy youthful life free from the miserable lot of colonial slavery, and therefore broke away from the corrupt society of the south, a colony of the United States, he noted.

He said that while inspecting Pyongyang, factories, farm villages, shops and other places in the northern half, he was convinced that the northern half is a society where the Korean people are alive. It is a fortune for the entire people in the north and the south to have President Kim Il Sung, the greatest man, and Mr. Kim Jong Il as their leaders, he stressed.

Referring to the new war provocation moves of the U.S. and the Chon Du Hwan junta, he said:

The 21st division of the "ROK army" in which I served is assigned by the "U.S. forces command" in the south the "task" to hoist the "ROK flag" on the top of Mt. Paekdu and other units are assigned tasks to "occupy" Pyongyang, Chongjin and other big cities in the north. Concrete plans and tasks for northward invasion are mapped out, new special units are organized continuously and combat equipment and new-type weapons are massed in the area along the Military-Demarcation Line.

Some time ago, Reagan visited the south to "inspect" the front. It was also aimed at whipping up a war fever against the north among the U.S. forces and the "ROK army."

The deeds of the Yankees and the Chon Du Hwan junta tell us that the plan for northward invasion has become a fait accompli.

They fabricate such incidents as the Rangoon explosion and render the situation strained in a bid to invent a pretext for a war against the north.

I bitterly denounce the war moves of the Yankees and their stooges.

Kim Yong Hwan expressed his firm determination to study, work hard and devote himself to the cause of national reunification to repay the deep benevolence of President Kim Il Sung and Mr. Kim Jong Il who provided a new life to him.

* * *

Follows a list of south Koreans who came over to the northern half of the DPRK last year. (As of the end of November).

Kim Song Bae: businessman (May)
Yun Gwon Sok; a 19-year-old youth (July)
Tyon Sang Gap; 21 years old; belonging to the fire arms squad, the 1st platoon, the 9th company, the 3rd battalion, the 52nd regiment, the 12 division (August)

Yang Gi Sok; a cartridge man of the firearms squad, 3rd platoon, 11th company, 3rd battalion, 55th regiment, 22nd division (September)
Kim Yong Hwan: 23 years old; rifleman (private) of the 2nd platoon, the 3rd company, the first battalion, the 63rd regiment, the 21st division (September)

Mun Sang Chol: 21 years old; a superior private of the 1st platoon, 1st company, search battalion, 28th division (October)
Kang Ji Hwan; a 32-year-old youth (October)

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(Continued from page 1)

People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held on January 10 made a proposal for holding tripartite talks of the DPRK, the United States and the south Korean authorities in order to open up a new phase of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The Chinese people resolutely support this as one more important effort made by the DPRK to achieve the reunification of the country and solve Korea's question.

The proposal of the north side of Korea to hold tripartite talks for signing a peace agreement with the United States and making its forces withdraw from south Korea is aimed at terminating foreign interference and creating a favourable condition for a peaceful dialogue between north and south of Korea.

Then the tension on the Korean Peninsula will be eased and this will be very favourable also for defence of peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of Asia.

The north side of Korea held that the problem of founding a confederation proposed earlier by it should be discussed at the dialogue and expressed its readiness to discuss other problems brought forward by other parties.

This reasonable stand fully shows the sincerity of the north side for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Chinese people sincerely hope that the Unites States and south Korea authorities will not miss the chance but respond to it and hold the tripartite talks as early as possible and, consequently, the question of the peaceful reunification of Korea will be solved in a reasonable way at an early date.

The Xinhua News Agency on January 12 reported a commentary titled "Active Proposal for the Solution of the Korean Question."

It stressed that the official proposal for tripartite talks made by the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is one more important effort of the DPRK for the solution of the Korean question and an expression of the sincerity of the north side of Korea to remove the tension on the Korean Peninsula and realise the peaceful reunification of the country.

Soviet Union

"Izvestia" January 11 carried the information on the joint meeting under the title "Important Initiative."

Tass reported on January 11 and 12 a detailed content of the information on the joint meeting and Radio Moscow aired it on January 12.

"Pravda" under the headline "For Security on the Korean Peninsula" reported again on January 13 about Pyongyang's talks offer.

The paper said:

The United States is chiefly to blame for the strained situation on the Korea Peninsula.

So stressed the joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and SPA Standing Committee.

The joint meeting pointed out that the U.S. attempt to perpetuate the military occupation of south Korea has become all the more unscrupulous in recent years.

The United States intends to keep hold on south Korea as its colony and military base for ever.

It declared East Asia including south Korea a "vitally important area for its interests."

It blared that "the security of south Korea is directly linked with that of the United States."

It is reinforcing its armed forces in and around the south of the Korean Peninsula and sharply expanding and activating its hostile acts against the DPRK.

The joint meeting stressed that under such situation the only way of guaranteeing security on the Korean Peninsula is to peacefully settle the existing problems at tripartite talks between the DPRK, the United States and the south Korean authorities as proposed by the DPRK.

It is necessary, above all, to discuss the question of concluding a peace agreement and making the U.S. troops withdraw from south Korea.

Another soviet paper *"Trud"* January 13 carried the gist of the information on the joint meeting.

"Pravda" January 14 carried a commentary.

The paper said: the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to hold tripartite talks with the participation of the DPRK, the U.S.A. and the south Korean authorities to centre on the issue of replacing the truce agreement with a peace agreement and on the issue of withdrawal of the American troops.

The DPRK has put forward its latest initiative in the context of a sharp deterioration of tensions in the Korean Peninsula, above all as a result of further attempts made by the U.S.A. at turning Seoul, as the newspaper "Rodong Sinmun" wrote recently, into a "site for a power of confrontation" and aggressive intrigues of the United States in the Asian-Pacific region.

The recent tour of Tokyo and Seoul by U.S. President Reagan added new factors of instability to the situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula.

To get the resolution of the Korean question going, it is necessary, in the first place, to stop the new build-up by the United States of its own and south Korean puppet armed forces and remove large-scale bases of the U.S. Defence Department from south Korea. An end shall also be put to the violation of the existing agreement on truce and all provocative sorties against the DPRK.

Only a peaceful settlement of the existing problems accords with the interests of the Korean people and ensuring security in the Peninsula and the adjacent area.

Yugoslavia

Lazar Mojsov, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, called a press conference on January 13 on a series of international problems.

At the press conference he said:

We support all the initiatives for the peaceful solution of the question of Korean reunification.

We have supported the proposals for the reunification of Korea put forward by President Kim Il Sung.

We support any proposal which is favorable for the Korean people to solve the question of their country's reunification.

We heard that the new proposal was put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for tripartite talks.

We fully support this proposal.

A spokesman of the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, at a press conference on January 12, clarified the stand of Yugoslavia on the new measure.

He said:

Yugoslavia actively supports the proposals of the DPRK for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea and peaceful reunification of the country without outside interference.

Proceeding from this stand we support the new proposal for holding tripartite talks with the participation of the DPRK, the United States and the south Korean authorities for the peaceful reunification of the country.

We are convinced that the tripartite talks will not only make a positive contribution to the country's reunification but also help toward easing tension in and around Korea.

Tanjug noted that the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which accords with the interests of the entire Korean people and world peace and detente is a new very fine and important initiative which will positively contribute to solving the main international problem at an early date.

In a commentary supporting the new proposal for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the title "Korea's Proposal" the news agency said Pyongyang officially clarified in this proposal that the south Korean authorities would be let to participate in the talks.

It noted:

By avoiding to respond to the talks to be participated in by the United States the south Korean "regime" showed that it is actually seeking to obstruct repeated constructive efforts of the DPRK for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

The south Korean authorities refuse to accept the proposal, without any justification, because it is Pyongyang's initiative.

The south Korean authorities did so in the past, too, to the positive proposals of the DPRK.

The proposal of Pyongyang to hold the tripartite talks as soon as possible is evoking great repercussions in the world.

The Yugoslav paper *"Borba"* January 13 published a commentary.

The paper said:

The northern half of the DPRK proposed on many occasions to south Korea to hold official talks for achieving the reunification of the country.

But successive military "regimes" of Seoul rejected the proposal each time on various pretexts.

The attitude to the new proposal of Pyongyang to hold tripartite talks is the same.

Now Pyongyang demands the United States respond the talks.

The new proposal is a very logical one.

If one truly desires Asian and world peace and the easing of tension on the Korean Peninsula, there can be no reason for him to refuse to accept the talks.

Another Yugoslav paper *"Politika"* January 14 in a commentary noted that the new initiative of Pyongyang which proposed tripartite talks with the United States and south Korea is evoking deep concern among the world public.

All central and local papers of Yugoslavia January 12 reported the joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and SPA Standing Committee.

The papers *"Borba"*, *"Politika"*, *"Oslobodjenje"*, *"Vecernje List"*, *"Vjesnik"*, *"Dnevnik"*, *"Pobjeda"*, *"Nova Makedonija"* and "Magyar Szo", carried summaries of the information on the joint meeting.

Czechoslovakia

The Czechoslovak paper *"Rude Pravo"* January 13 said the negative attitude of south Korea and the United States towards the peaceful initiative advanced by the DPRK showed who is the enemy of detente and peace in Asia.

The paper said:

Recently Pyongyang proposed to hold tripartite talks to discuss the questions of signing a peace agreement which would replace the Armistice Agreement, making the U.S. troops withdraw from south Korea and adopting a declaration of non-aggression between north and south Korea.

The United States regards the south of the Korean Peninsula as a favorable forward base for aggression on other countries. During his visit to south Korea in November last year Reagan showed that the United States is interested in keeping hold on south Korea as its bastion.

South Korea lost no time in rejecting the initiative the DPRK.

Seoul is well aware that the tripartite talks will make it clear that the present situation cannot last and who is to blame for the tensions. The south Korean rulers do not think of the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from south Korea and realization of the desire of a majority of the south Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country.

Other Czechoslovak papers *"Rude Pravo"*, *"Lidova Demokracie"*, *"Svobodne Slovo"*, *"Zemedelske Noviny"*, *"Prace"* and *"Mlada Fronta"* January 12 reported the DPRK's proposal.

Poland

The Polish paper *"Trybuna Ludu"* January 13 carried a commentary titled "Peaceful Initiative of Pyongyang".

The commentary said:

A new proposal for the reunification of Korea put forward by the DPRK is a very important initiative.

Official letters to the United States and the Seoul authorities explained the proposal to relax the situation on the Korean Peninsula through tripartite talks between the DPRK, the United States and the Seoul authorities.

The United States must sign a peace agreement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as proposed by the DPRK.

Because washington which has refused the proposal of the DPRK, saying that it cannot conclude such an agreement without the participation of the south Korean authorities has no pretext to turn down the proposal.

Romania

The Romanian paper *"Scinteia"* January 12 under the headline "New Initiative for Solving Korean Question Independently and Peacefully" gave an account of the joint meeting.

The paper said:

The joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and SPA Standing Committee proposed to hold tripartite talks by letting the south Korean authorities participate in the talks between the DPRK and the United States.

The meeting pointed out that it is necessary, above all, to discuss the questions of signing a peace agreement between Korea and the United States and making the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons withdraw from south Korea at the tripartite talks.

It also proposed to consult the questions of adopting a declaration of non-aggression between the north and south of Korea, not resorting to arms against each other and reducing each other's armies and armaments.

It stressed that the most reasonable way of national reunification embodying the principles of independence, peace and great national unity is to build up a confederal state based on autonomy in the two regions, while leaving the different ideas and systems existing in the north and south as they are.

Other Romanian papers *"Romania Libera"* and *"Scinteia Tineretului"* January 12 and Romanian Radio and Television January 11 reported about the joint meeting.

Bulgaria

Bulgarian mass media reported the joint meeting.

The paper *"Rabotnichesko Delo"* January 12 reported the joint meeting under the title "DPRK's constructive proposal."

It noted that the joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee and the SPA Standing Committee decided to propose to hold tripartite talks by letting the south Korean authorities participate in the talks between the DPRK and the United States.

The only way to achieve peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification under the tense situation which has been created on the Korean Peninsula due to the U.S. policy of aggression is to hold constructive talks, it said.

Other Bulgarian papers *"Otechestven Front"*, *"Zemedelsko Zname"*, *"Narodna Mladezh"*, *"Kooperativno Selo"* January 12, and the Bulgarian News Agency, Radio and Television reported summaries of the information in the joint meeting.

Cuba

The Cuban paper *"Granma"* January 12 said: the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for tripartite talks noted that the problem of signing a peace agreement to replace the armistice agreement which the DPRK and the United States concluded in 1953 and the problem of adopting a declaration of non-aggression between the north and the south of Korea should be discussed.

Other Cuban papers *"Los Trabajadores"* January 12 and *"Juventud Rebelde"* January 11 and Cuban Radio and Television January 11 reported summaries of the information on the joint meeting.

(Continued from page 1)

Proposal of Epochal Significance

The proposal for three-way talks is of epochal significance.

In the first place, the talks offer was timely in view of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The peace of Asia is unthinkable apart from that of Korea. The peaceful reunification is a guarantee for a durable peace of the whole of Asia.

Secondly, this is the first time that Pyongyang has proposed to allow the south Korean authorities to participate in Pyongyang-Washington talks on an equal footing, not as a mere observer.

Thirdly, Pyongyang, in the past, regarded a Pyongyang-Washington talk as entirely different in nature from a north-south dialogue. In other words, it urged that the problems of preserving peace in Korea should be discussed at the former, and internal problems such as reunification issues at the latter.

However, the latest proposal enables the south Koreans to sit together to discuss the problems of preserving the peace of Korea. It is intended to create, first of all, conditions favourable for reunification talks through the conclusion of a peace agreement and the adoption of a declaration of non-aggression of north and south Korea.

Finally, the latest proposal came at a time when a new development was seen in Beijing-Washington relations. It reflected the will of the DPRK Government to make the new development serve to acceralate reunification.

Pyongyang's latest proposal is really a great step toward the realization of the preaceful reunification of the divided peninsula which is closely linked with peace and stability the world over.

The Korean people, supported by the world's peace-loving people, will make every possible effort to realize three-way talks for a negotiated settlement of Korea's reunification.

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